BECOMING STRONGER IN ORDER TO PROTECT SOMEONE...
SFX: SWORD CLASHING
SFX: HEALING SPELL
SFX: SHIELD BLOCK
OOF!

NEXT!
SFX: THUD OF ARROWS HITTING A TARGET
IT'S KIND OF SCARY HOW NATSU'S IMPROVED. SHE'S GONE HARDCORE.
TOTALLY HARDCORE
NO, NO. THIS IS STILL JUST THE BEGINNING.
BUT, YOU KNOW... PLAYING THIS GAME IS SO GREAT!!
YOU THINK SO?
SFX: GIGGLE
IS THERE SOMETHING OVER THERE?
AH...
I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME IT CAME IN SIGHT.

THE YOUNG AUTHOR WHOSE DEBUT WORK "LINKAGE" WAS FAVORABLY LAUNCHED BY YURI HIME COMICS!!

apocalypse アポカリプス

Chapter:3

倉田嘘
Uso Kurata

OH LOOK!
THIS IS AWESOME, KU!
SFX: SCHOOL BELL
A CASTLE!! IT'S SO BIG! LET'S GO!! QUICKLY!
WAIT A... NATSU!
ISN'T CLASS ALREADY STARTING?
ALL THE PLAYERS, WHO PICKED THE ALSTAR REGION TO START OUT IN, GATHER THERE.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET OTHER PLAYERS SOON!
OTHER PLAYERS?
YEAH, PLAYERS OTHER THAN US...
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME WORLD!
NATSU'S COMPLETELY ADDICTED... I'M KIND OF WORRIED ABOUT HER...

CLASS IS STARTING...
SFX: SURPRISE!
ALRIGHT!
SFX: MGP HITTING THE TABLE
COME ON, IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, WON'T YOUR MGP BE CONFISCATED?
SFX: CLAP
THIS LOOKS INTERESTING, KU!
EHHH!
AAAH!
SFX: MGP HITTING THE FLOOR

IT WON'T TURN ON...
Family Restaurant
Iris
MGP
SORRY...
WHAT'VE YOU DONE MITSUOGI-CHAN...
KU, I'LL PAY TO HAVE IT FIXED...
BUT REALLY, IT'S THE TIME IT'LL TAKE, NOT THE MONEY, THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
IF YOU SEND IT OUT TO BE REPAIRED, WHO KNOWS WHEN YOU'LL GET IT BACK?
O-OH?

AND NATSU, YOU WERE SO LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO THE CITY.
THAT KIND OF...
B-BUT THAT'D JUST RE-VERSE THE PROBLEM
HUH?
I'VE GOT IT!!
USE MINE!
AH...
UMMM...
NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY THE GAME FOR A LITTLE WHILE WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
ANYHOW, IF I COME TO SCHOOL, I CAN STILL SEE YOU GUYS IN THE NORMAL WAY
I'M OKAY, YOU GUYS CAN PLAY WITH JUST THE THREE OF YOU...
THERE'S NO HELPING IT, I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE THE ONE LEFT OUT...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
IT'S REALLY COMPLETELY ALRIGHT.

SEE YOU LATER, I'LL SEND OFF MY MGP FOR REPAIRS TODAY ON MY WAY HOME.
OKAY...
SFX. OPENING THE DOOR
Logging into the game...
MGP
WELL THEN...
SINCE MATSUBARA-CHAN SAYS IT'S ALRIGHT...
I THINK WE SHOULD START MAKING SOME PROGRESS IMMEDIATELY, BUT...

YOU JUST WANT TO PLAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
YOU'RE EASY TO UNDERSTAND
SINCE YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT IT, I COULD EVEN PLAY KU'S PART!!
NO...
IT'S NOT THAT, BUT...
WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU STILL DOWN ABOUT BREAKING IT?
SILENCE, MONGREL!
GO
GO
SO ANY-WAY...
GETTING THROUGH THE ABAN-DONED MINE UP THERE...
IS GOING TO BE ROUGH WITHOUT A HEALER.
SFX: WIND ECHOING THROUGH THE MINE
WAIT UP!
YOU THREE OVER THERE!
SFX: HER EARS PERKING UP
!!!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO...

OH. I'M SAVED!
KU ...
I COULDN'T GET A PARTY TOGETHER, SO I'VE JUST BEEN STUCK STANDING OVER THERE
THANK GOODNESS. I'VE FOUND A WELL-FORMED GROUP, THAT'S MISSING A HEALER!
DID YOU GUYS ALL JUST MEET HERE?
WASN'T MAD AT ALL....
ASHA

I WONDER WHY THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW FUN GAMES ARE...
OH, COOL! THERE AREN'T MANY GAMERS AROUND WHERE I LIVE...
NO, WE'RE FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL
KU IS ALWAYS NICE TO ME, BUT ...
EVEN THOUGH I TRY TO EXPLAIN...
OH?
SINCE IT WAS TOUGH INVITING THE TWO OF THEM, ALSO...
AH, I UNDERSTAND THAT
SHE ACCEPTED IT SO EASILY
I WONDER IF SHE REALLY DOESN'T CARE...
THAT SHE CAN'T PLAY THE GAME...

IS THAT ONE OF HERA'S MARRIAGE RINGS?
THAT'S SO COOL THAT YOU GOT ONE!
YEAH, ISN'T IT AWESOME? THAT'S A RARE AMONG RARES...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT IT...
OH YEAH? BUT...
IS YOUR PARTNER NOT HERE?
IT'S OUR HEALER, WHO COULDN'T LOG IN TODAY FOR VARIOUS REASONS...
AH, SO IT'S THANKS TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND THAT I WAS ABLE TO JOIN YOUR PARTY TODAY!
IT'S NOT SHINING
HE'S GOT MY GRATI-TUDE!
AH... THAT'S ACTUALLY A BIT OFF
HER PARTNER'S A GIRL!
HUH?
AH... I GET IT...

NO...
IT'S A GAME, SO YOU CAN DO THAT SORT OF THING
YOU SURPRISED ME FOR A SECOND.
FRIEND...?
HUH?
RIGHT, RIGHT...
YOU GAVE IT TO YOUR FRIEND.
SKELETON
FX SKELETONS APPROACHING
THERE'S LOTS OF THEM!
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!
KU'S DOING NOW
I WONDER WHAT...

HA...
Request for Repairs
Requesting repairs for the following merchandise
Item Name
Accessory Objects
Adapter
USB cable
Warning!
1 The condition (damage)
While it is in the car
I SAID...
IT WAS FINE, BUT...

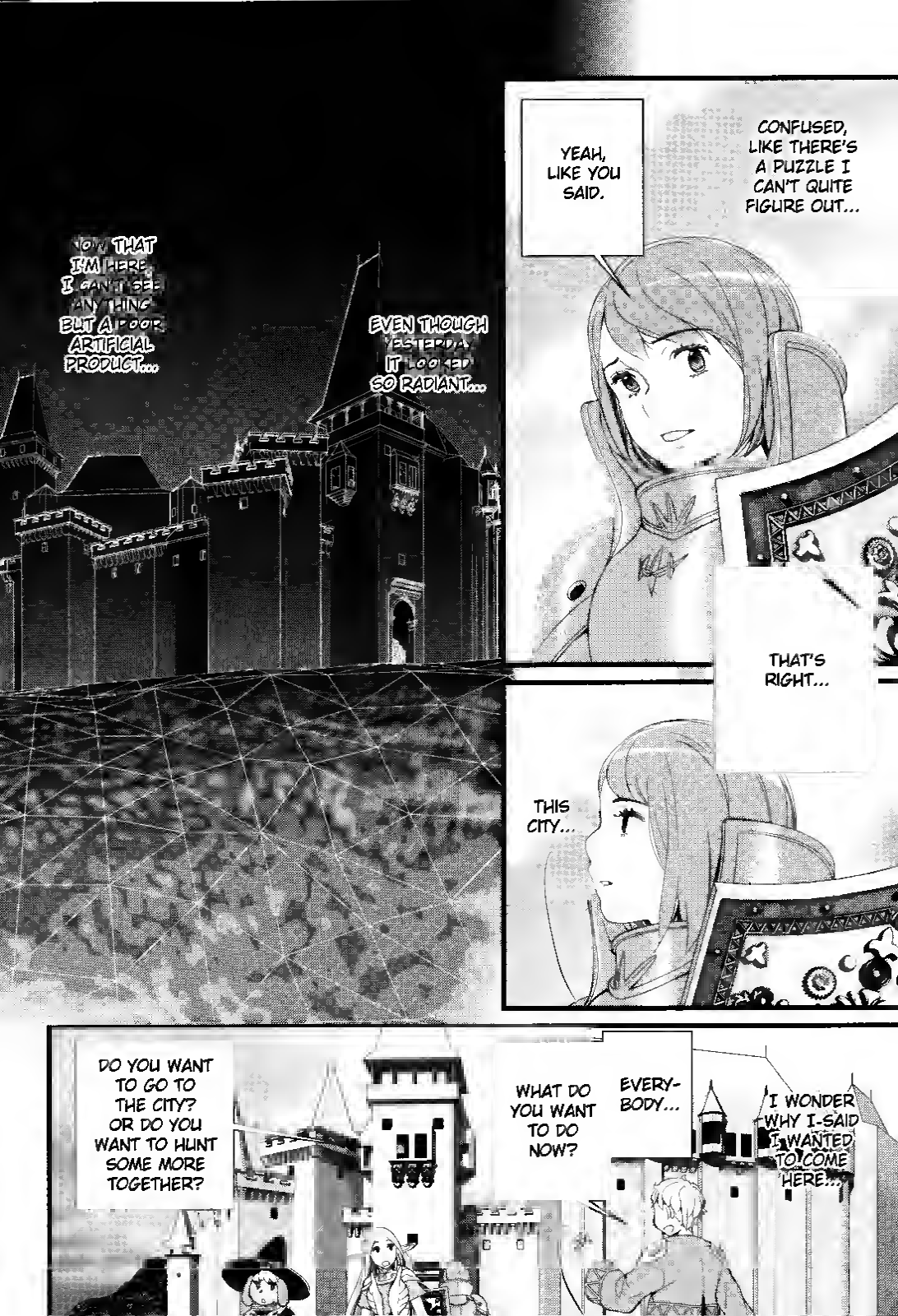
JUST LIKE BACK THEN, I'M LOSING THE ABILITY TO RESTRAIN MYSELF.
IT WAS A GOOD TIME FOR MY MGP TO BECOME BROKEN...
I'M DEPENDENT ON IT AFTER ALL...
THIS IS HOPELESS
THE ODDS AGAINST IT, BUT IF I...
I REALIZE...
I'VE GOT TO COOL MY HEAD.
BEFORE I GET MY MGP-BACK...
Shoot
Shoot

SFX: LIGHTNING HITTING THE SHIELD
SFX: BLOCK
NICE GUARD!
SOMEHOW...
SFX: HEALING SPELL
THE USUAL FEELING OF TENSION IS MISSING...
THE ENEMIES ALL LOOK...
LIKE THEY'RE MADE OF PAPER...

GREATER SHIELD STUN!!
WAS I JUST DOING THIS DULL WORK BEFORE?
WELL DONE NATSU!
SFX: TURN
THE GAME FEELS LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN REPEATEDLY FLIPPING LEVERS AND PUSHING BUTTONS

WE DID IT!
THANKS, ASHA!
SFX: HIGH FIVE
THE CITY IS ALREADY RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES!
WE GOT THROUGH SAFELY!!
NO, NO, IT'S YOU GUYS WHO HELPED ME OUT.
AND THE COMBAT WENT REALLY SMOOTH, TOO.
THANKS TO YOU, WE MADE IT HERE SUPER FAST...

MITSUOGI-CHAN
HE'S SKILLED SO IT FEELS GREAT, RIGHT?
HOW'D YOU LIKE PARTNERING UP WITH ASHA?
STOP...
I'M EMBA-RASSED
HE'S CERTAINLY SKILLED AT THE GAME...
AND HAS A NICE PERSO-NALITY...
AND WORKED WELL WITH THE PARTY...
I THINK HE HEALED US PERFECTLY
BUT... SOMEHOW, I FEEL...


NOW THAT I'M HERE, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT A POOR, ARTIFICIAL PRODUCT...
EVEN THOUGH YESTERDAY IT LOOKED SO RADIANT...
YEAH, LIKE YOU SAID.
CONFUSED, LIKE THERE'S A PUZZLE I CAN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT...
THAT'S RIGHT...
THIS CITY...
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE CITY? OR DO YOU WANT TO HUNT SOME MORE TOGETHER?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?
EVERY-BODY...
I WONDER WHY I-SAID I WANTED TO COME HERE...?

HUH?
I THINK I'D LIKE TO STOP HERE...
AH, SHIBA-CHI ...
LET'S DO A LITTLE MORE HUNTING...
SURE, WE CAN GET SOME MORE STUFF, AND IT'S STILL EARLY
OH MY...
WELL, I GUESS I'M OUT TOO...
UGH!!
SFX: DISTRESS
BY THE WAY, ANNE-ROSE-CHAN, YOU COULD DO YOUR HOMEWORK?
ME TOO... LET'S STOP HERE
WELL, THEN, ERI...?
THANKS FOR COMING!
OF COURSE! THANKS...
WHEN YOU SEE ME AGAIN, BE SURE TO GIVE A YELL!
IT WAS A LOT OF FUN!

GOOD MORNING!
HOW WAS IT, YESTERDAY? YOU MADE SOME PROGRESS, RIGHT?
UH, YEAH, WE MADE SOME PROGRESS...
...BUT...
THIS IS... KIND OF HARD TO SAY, BUT...
?
SFX GLANCING
I THINK... I MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE TIRED OF PLAYING THAT GAME...
WHAT?! WHY!? BUT YOU WERE SO CRAZY ABOUT IT!
I DON'T KNOW, IT'S JUST...

BUT!
SORRY, SHIBA-CHI
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A WEEK, YOU CAN'T HAVE TIRED OF IT ALREADY!!
THOSE ARE TERMINAL SYMPTOMS FOR AN ONLINE GAMER!
AGH!
SUDDENLY, I STARTED THINKING THAT THE HUNTING SEEMED LIKE REALLY SIMPLE-MINDED WORK AND THEN...
IT'S BEST TO QUIT BEFORE IT DRAGS ON TO THE POINT WHERE YOU'RE PAYING TO USE THE CHAT FUNCTION WITH IN-GAME FRIENDS BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO TOGETHER.
FORMER HARDCORE GAMER
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT! I KNOW WELL THE PAIN OF CONTINUING TO PLAY AN INTERNET GAME FROM FORCE OF HABIT, AFTER YOU'VE TIRED OF IT.
EVERYONE WILL GIVE UP ON THE GAME
しゅん・・・
SFX: THE SHOCK OF REALI-ZATION
IF MATSU-BARA-CHAN DOESN'T COME BACK EITHER...
...
YES?
SFX ANSWERING CELLPHONE
AHHH
SFX CELL PHONE RINGING
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND
SFX. CRYING
SUCH A SHORT-LIVED WORLD!!!

THIS IS THE TOKYO BRANCH OF TOYSAURUS, WE RECEIVED YOUR REQUEST FOR REPAIRS TO YOUR MGP YESTERDAY
AND WHILE WE WERE CHECKING IT OUT, BEFORE SENDING IT TO THE MANUFACTURER...
SFX- HOWLING
GAMING IN DESPERATION
EH... AH!
MY APOLOGIES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WHA... WHAT HAPPENED?
SFX. HANGING UP
IT TURNS OUT...
IT WASN'T THE MGP THAT HAD BROKEN
THEY SAID THAT WHEN IT WAS DROPPED, THE BATTERY JUST GOT SHIFTED OUT OF PLACE A LITTLE...
OH!!!
THANK GOODNESS! I'M SORRY, KU!
HOORAY!! SO THAT MEANS...
MATSU-BARA-CHAN CAN RETURN TO THE GAME TODAY!
SFX SPARKLES

AH...
BUT MITSUOGI-CHAN IS...
I WAS THINKING, IF MATSU-BARA-CHAN REJOINS US, THE FOUR OF US CAN PLAY APOCALYPSE, BUT...
YOU TWO ARE JUST SWI-TCHING OUT... I GUESS THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT...
AH...
WAIT...
WAIT A SEC!
ABOUT MY ABSENCE!!
ガヒーン

FOR SOME REASON...
I SUDDENLY WANT TO PLAY THE GAME AGAIN!
SO COULD I CONTINUE PLAYING?
NO, I MEAN, PLEASE LET ME CONTINUE PLAYING!
I'M BEGGING YOU!! SHIBA-CHI!!

A SIGN OF LOVE...!?
...
I FORGIVE YOU!
YOU'RE GETTING SO WORKED UP, IT'S JUST A GAME!
YOU SAY THAT, EVEN THOUGH YOU GET MAD WHEN PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF THE GAME.
WHEN MATSUBARA-CHAN RECOVERS HER MGP TODAY, LET'S MEET AT IRIS!!!
THANKS, SHIBA-CHI!
SINCE I CAUSED SO MANY PROBLEMS, I'LL TREAT YOU ALL TO UNLIMITED FLOATS!
WHOA!
THEN I'LL FILL UP BY EATING JUST THE ICECREAM ON TOP!!!
STOP THAT...
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Apocalypse
Chapter 3

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